

FAX

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From :Dr Hugh Crone, 8 Lawrence St., Eaglemont, VIC 3084, Australia.
Phone/FAX Int + 61 3 9457 2207
Email: hcrone@ozemail.com.au

To: Professor Matthew Meselson, Dept. of Molecular and Cellular Biology,
Harvard University. FAX No. 617-496-2444.

To: Dr Julian Perry Robinson, SPRU, University of Sussex, UK.
FAX No. 01273-685865.

Dear Matthew and Julian,

I have compiled a short (11,000 words) book or pamphlet on a scientific interpretation of the various reasons given for going to war in Iraq. It is written for general readership, so I have tried to keep the technical part simple. Primarily, it is intended for circulation here, if I can get a publisher, or get it printed myself.

It draws heavily on the "News Chronology" of the CBW Conventions Bulletin, and concentrates on the CW aspect, as that is what I am competent to write on. This raises two questions. Firstly, are you happy to have the Bulletin quoted, and is the comment under "Sources" on the attached sheet satisfactory? Secondly, could you make use of the document in the USA/UK? There is not a great Australian focus, as our government seems to have accepted what came from overseas.

I have other projects which I need to publish. Any one want a draft ms on Paracelsus (Theophrastus von Hohenheim), about 80,000 words? I have spent about two years on this and was in London in May spending four weeks in the Wellcome Medical Library. Unfortunately, Cambridge, Oxford and other academic publishers seem to have much stricter publishing guidelines. I have tried about 15 publishers. Cambridge seem to be quite restrictive. After urging me to do a revised edition of "Chemicals and Society" for two years, they then said no when I decided to go ahead.

Matthew. I saw an announcement of your roundtable at the LSE last week. My daughter is in London, so I hoped she could go, but she had other commitments.

I hope you are both well and that we will meet sometime. Shirley Freeman is feeling her age but is still very alert mentally. She gets tired, and is limited in mobility by arthritis.

Yours sincerely,



(Hugh Crone) 11 November 2003.

2 sheets total.

7. Conclusions

1. The governments of the USA and UK decided to invade Iraq for political reasons not clear to the public.
2. The Australian government supported this action, probably as a show of support to the USA.
3. All three governments justified this action on the basis that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction that posed a global threat.
4. The disposal and monitoring activities of the UN agencies, UNSCOM AND UNMOVIC, had in fact removed the WMD held in 1990, and no WMD of military significance existed in Iraq in early 2003.
5. Each of the governments altered intelligence and technical input to strengthen the case for war.
6. The UK claim of 45 minutes for Iraq to deploy C and BW was the most blatant embroidery.
7. The White House and senior Defense Department officials were the leading proponents of the deficient evidence in the USA, with the CIA and State Department more cautious.
8. Australia appears to have accepted US and UK information uncritically.
9. It seems unlikely that the technical experts in any of the three nations were consulted objectively.
10. In Australia, it is not clear where the dressing up of the information occurred; in the Defence Science and Technology Organisation, in the Defence Intelligence Organisation, in the Office of National Assessments or the Prime Minister's Office. It is not even clear if some of these groups were properly consulted.
11. Apart from its political consequences, this twisting of evidence to serve a political end will result in poorer and less reliable intelligence information in the future. This will degrade the ability to monitor terrorist activities and to assess military threats to Australia.

8. Sources.

Much use has been made of the "News Chronology" in the "The CBW Conventions Bulletin", the quarterly journal of the Harvard Sussex Program on CBW and Arms Limitation. The author is grateful to the compilers and editors of this journal for this assistance.

The internet has also provided much information. Readers that wish to access documents of which I have quoted the title and publishing organisation will have no trouble in finding the documents by searching using both terms.

Numbered citations are:

1. Interview with Ron Manley on openDemocracy.net on the 10 July 2003.
2. "Ambassador Rolf Ekeus: Leaving Behind the UNSCOM Legacy in Iraq." In *Arms Control Today*, June/July 1997.
www.armscontrol.org/act/1997_06-07/ekeus.asp
3. Richard Butler. "Science, Weapons, Politics: The Ethics, The Hard Choices." In *Australasian Science*, Nov/Dec 2002, 40-41.
4. "Richard Butler: Should the U.S. attack Iraq?" CNN.com/COMMUNITY.
www.cnn.com/2001/COMMUNITY/11/28/butler.cnn
5. A second interview with Ron Manley on openDemocracy.net on 9 October 2003.

9. Abbreviations.

ASIO	Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation.
ASIS	Australian Secret Intelligence Service
BW	Biological Weapons or Warfare.
CW	Chemical Weapons or Warfare.
DSD	Defence Signals Division (Australia).
GB	A nerve agent, also called Sarin.